# Northeastern Minnesota Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment

**Errata** – The following changes were made to the final version of the document.

**Preferred Alternative Map-Page 21-** Revision in response to Chippewa National Forest (NF) and public comments suggesting that the connecting corridor be widened in places to increase flexibility for locating a route for new trail development

The Preferred Alternative Map was revised in response to comments received by mail and during the public open houses. Portions of the proposed corridor were widened. The revised map is included in these errata.

**3.9.1 Ceded Lands-Page 33-Additional Information-** In response to 1854 Authority comments requesting description of treaty ceded lands, the following paragraph is added

The 1854 Ceded Territory encompasses all of Lake and Cook Counties, most of St. Louis and Carleton County and portions of Pine and Aitkin Counties. Under the treaty of 1854 three bands (Boise Forte, Grand Portage, and Fond du Lac) reserved the right to hunt, fish, and gather in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The exercise of these rights continues today in the 1854 Ceded Territory. The Boise Forte reservation was established under the Treaty of 1866.

# 4.4 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Biological Resources-

**Page 41-** In response to Superior NF comments requesting inclusion by reference of the Region 9 sensitive species list and specific reference to three species of concern, the following paragraph is added to the end of this section and Appendix 6 is added to the document

The Forest Service is concerned that there may be impacts to osprey, great blue heron, and the common loon. These species are included in the revised Superior National Forest Plan. The trail can, and should be designed to preclude any impacts to these species. Forest Service planning for new trail segments in the connecting corridor can assess potential impacts to these species and route new segments accordingly.

**4.6 Impacts on Northeastern Minnesota Community Resources- Page 43-Additional Information -** In response to Superior NF comments, the following paragraph is revised to include the sentence in *Bold and Italics* 

#### **Impacts within the connecting corridor:**

There is significant local, regional, and national support for the preferred alternative. Availability of a national scenic trail in this region could provide additional recreational visitors to the area accompanied with minor positive economic impacts to local

communities and businesses along the route. Costs related to construction, operation, and maintenance of the trail on public lands would be a part of the normal budgeting of the specific managing agency. *Due to current funding and personnel limitations the Superior NF may require additional funding to complete the necessary NEPA and actual trail construction work.* Most of the actual trail construction and maintenance is generally done by volunteers and would not result in a significant economic impact on the planning area, although there may be some additional spending by volunteers while working in the area. In general, there would be beneficial impacts on the communities along this corridor caused by construction of the trail as proposed in this alternative. The impacts would be minor and continuing.

#### Appendix 3-Known Historical Sites and Structures in Project Area

Add the following site to Appendix 3 under Itasca County
Joyce Estate—potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

**Additional Appendix-**In response to Superior NF comments, the following Appendix is added to the document

#### **Appendix 6 - Forest Service Region 9 Sensitive Species List**

The Forest Service Region 9 Sensitive Species List is incorporated by reference. This list may be found at the following web site: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/tes\_lists.htm

**Typographical Corrections** — During the course of public meetings and public written comments, a number of typographical errors were found. The following corrections to the draft document should be made as noted:

## 3.10.2 Superior National Forest

Second paragraph, last sentence – "The Superior NF would continue to **manage** the trail on the basis of established Forest Policies and the applicable standards and guidelines." The word was incorrectly spelled **"mange"**.

**Throughout the document -** Correct "**Vermillion** Lake" to "**Vermillion** Lake" (only one "1").

#### Page 38, last bullet on this page - Correct it to read:

• Cost of construction and operation of new trail. **This issue is discussed in section 4.6.** [It incorrect cited section **4.7.** 

#### The following list of Preparers, Consultants, and Recipients of the Route Assessment and Environmental Assessment is added to the end of the document:

#### List of Preparers

#### **Primary Preparers**

Ken Howell Land Protection Coordinator, North Country National Scenic Trail

Fredrick A. Szarka Manager, North Country National Scenic Trail

Thomas L. Gilbert Superintendent, Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails

#### **Technical Consultants**

Paul Roberts United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Biologist

### List of Persons Consulted

| First Name | Last Name        | Job Title                                | Company                                   |
|------------|------------------|--|---|
| Sue        | Duffy            | Outdoor Rec. Planner                     | Superior National Forest                  |
| Michelle   | Johnson          |  | ARDC                                      |
| Ann        | Long<br>Voelkner | Outdoor Recreation Planner               | Chippewa National Forest                  |
| Rod        | MacRae           | MN Coordinator                           | North Country Trail<br>Association (NCTA) |
| Dirk       | Mason            | Recreation Planner                       | NCTA                                      |
| Bill       | Menke            | North Country Trail<br>Manager (retired) | NPS                                       |
| Judy       | Ness             |  | Superior National Forest                  |
| Gayle      | Coyer            | Executive Director                       | Superior Hiking Trail<br>Association      |
| Les        | Ollila           | Supervisor-Trails and<br>Waterways       | Minnesota DNR - Region 2                  |
| Dennis     | Gimmstead        | Compliance Officer                       | Minnesota SHPO                            |
| Roger      | Clark            | Park System Manager                      | Itasca County                             |
| Todd       | Driscoll         | Itasca County Trails Council             |   |
| Larry      | Duffy            | Resource Management<br>Supervisor        | St. Louis County                          |
| Ed         | Steklaska        |  |   |
| Kelly      | Fleissner        |  | City of Duluth                            |
| Dorian     | Grilley          | Executive Director                       | Minnesota Parks & Trails<br>Council       |
| John       | Hanson           |  | Blandin Paper Company                     |
| Andy       | Holak            | Recreation Specialist                    | St. Louis County                          |

| First Name | Last Name   | Job Title                    | Company                      |
|------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tim        | Howard      | Associate Director           |                              |
| Marilyn    | Isaac       | Coordinator                  | City of Grand Rapids, MN     |
| Tim        | Kennedy     | Planning Director            |                              |
| John       | Leinen, Jr. | Board of Directors           | NCTA                         |
| Eunice     | Luedtke     | Manager                      | Minnesota Dept. of Natural   |
|            |             |                              | Resources (DNR)              |
| Bill       | Majewski    |                              | City of Duluth               |
| Bob        | Manzoline   | Executive Director           | Mesabi Trail                 |
| Tom        | Martinson   | Land Commissioner            | Lake County                  |
| Thor       | Nordwall    |                              |                              |
| Garret     | Ous         | Land Commissioner            | Itasca County                |
| Derrick    | Passe       | President                    | Kekekabic Trail Club         |
| Tom        | Peterson    |                              | MN-DNR                       |
| Ralph      | Pribble     | President                    | Minnesota Rovers Outing Club |
| Dave       | Soreenson   |                              | Chippewa National Forest     |
| Chuck      | Spoden      | Regional Forest Manager      | Minnesota DNR                |
| Howard     | Zeman       | Relationships & Partnerships | US Forest Service            |
|            |             | Coordinator                  |                              |

# Recipients of Environmental Assessment

| First Name        | Last Name   | Job Title                     | Company                  |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Keith             | Hamre       | Community Development         | City of Duluth           |
| Carl              | Seehus      | Director Parks and Recreation | City of Duluth           |
| Mayor Herb        | Bergson     | Mayor                         | City of Duluth           |
| Dennis            | Gimmestad   | Review and Compliance         | Minnesota State Historic |
|                   |             |                               | Preservation Officer     |
| Robin             | Glasser     | Mayor                         | City of Two Harbors      |
| Mark              | Sandbo      | Mayor                         | City of Grand Marais     |
| Senator Mark      | Dayton      | Senator                       | United States Senate     |
| Susan             | Zeige       | Mayor                         | City of Grand Rapids     |
| Norm              | Moody       | Land Commissioner             | Cass County              |
| Jim               | Dowson      | Chairman Board of County      | Cass County              |
|                   |             | Commissioners                 |                          |
| Rep. David        | Obey        | Representative                | U.S. Congress            |
|                   |             |                               |                          |
| Minnesota Dept.   | Attn: Gerry |                               | Minnesota Dept. of       |
| of Transportation | Larson      |                               | Transportation           |
| U.S.D.A. Natural  | Attn: Tim   |                               | Natural Resources        |
| Resources         | Koehler     |                               | Conservation Service     |
| Conservation      |             |                               |                          |
| Service           |             |                               |                          |

| First Name        | Last Name        | Job Title                    | Company             |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| North Country     | Attn:Rob Corbett | Director of Trail Management | North Country Trail |
| Trail Association |                  |                              | Association         |
| US Army Corps     | Attn: Julett     | Regulatory Affairs           | US Army Corps of    |
| of Engineers      | Denton           |                              | Engineers           |
| Bemidji State     |                  |                              |                     |
| University        |                  |                              |                     |
| Duluth Public     |                  |                              |                     |
| Library           |                  |                              |                     |
| Anoka County      |                  |                              |                     |
| Library System    |                  |                              |                     |
| St. Johns         |                  |                              |                     |
| University        |                  |                              |                     |
| University of     |                  |                              |                     |
| Minnesota,        |                  |                              |                     |
| Duluth Library    |                  |                              |                     |
| Dakota County     | Wescott Library  |                              |                     |
| Library System    |                  |                              |                     |
| Hennepin          |                  |                              |                     |
| County Library    |                  |                              |                     |
| System            |                  |                              |                     |
| Minnesota State   | Mankato          |                              |                     |
| University,       | Memorial         |                              |                     |
|                   | Library          |                              |                     |
| Southwest         | Library          |                              |                     |
| Minnesota State   |                  |                              |                     |
| University        |                  |                              |                     |
| Minneapolis       |                  |                              |                     |
| Public Library    |                  |                              |                     |
| University of     |                  |                              |                     |
| Minnesota         |                  |                              |                     |
| Law Library       |                  |                              |                     |
| Minnesota State   |                  |                              |                     |
| University        |                  |                              |                     |
| University of     | Morris           |                              |                     |
| Minnesota         |                  |                              |                     |
| Carleton College  |                  |                              |                     |
| Rolvaag           |                  |                              |                     |
| Memorial          |                  |                              |                     |
| Library           |                  |                              |                     |
| Ramsey County     |                  |                              |                     |
| Public Library    |                  |                              |                     |
| St. Cloud State   |                  |                              |                     |
| University        |                  |                              |                     |
| Hamline           |                  |                              |                     |
| University        |                  |                              |                     |

| First Name        | Last Name        | Job Title            | Company                 |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Minnesota         |                  |                      |                         |
| Supreme Court     |                  |                      |                         |
| St. Paul Public   |                  |                      |                         |
| Library           |                  |                      |                         |
| University of     | St. Paul         |                      |                         |
| Minnesota         |                  |                      |                         |
| William Mitchell  |                  |                      |                         |
| College of Law    |                  |                      |                         |
| Gustavus          |                  |                      |                         |
| Adolphus          |                  |                      |                         |
| College           |                  |                      |                         |
| Winona State      |                  |                      |                         |
| University        |                  |                      |                         |
| Darin             | Miller           |                      |                         |
| Richard           | Blake            | Roll Development     |                         |
|                   |                  | Coordinator          |                         |
| Mesabi Trail      | Attn: Bob        | Executive Director   |                         |
|                   | Manzoline        |                      |                         |
| Tim               | Cochrane         | Superintendent Grand | National Park Service   |
|                   |                  | Portage NM           |                         |
| Sarah             | Strommen         | Policy Director      | friends of the Boundary |
|                   |                  |                      | Waters Wilderness       |
| John              | Leinen           | Board Chair          | NCTA                    |
| Superior          | attn: Judy Ness  | Recreation Planner   | USDA Forest Service     |
| National Forest   |                  |                      | (USFS)                  |
| Kawishiwi         | Attn: Mark Van   | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| Ranger District   | Every            |                      |                         |
| La Croix Ranger   | Attn: Constance  | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| District          | Chaney           |                      |                         |
| Gunflint Ranger   | Attn: Dennis     | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| District          | Neitzke          |                      |                         |
| Laurentian        | Attn: Allan Bier | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| Ranger District   |                  |                      |                         |
| Tofte Ranger      | attn: Jackie     | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| District          | Andrew           |                      |                         |
| Chippewa          | Attn: Mike       | Recreation Manager   | USFS                    |
| National Forest   | Martin           |                      |                         |
| Black Duck        | Attn Tracy Beck  | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| Ranger District   |                  |                      |                         |
| Deer River        | Attn: Wade       | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| Ranger District   | Spang            |                      |                         |
| Walker Ranger     | Attn: Tom        | District Ranger      | USFS                    |
| District          | Somrak           |                      |                         |
| Superior Hiking   | Attn:Gayle       | Director             |                         |
| Trail Association | Coyer            |                      |                         |

| First Name | Last Name  | Job Title                     | Company                |
|------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Laurie     | Martinson  | Director, Trails and          | Minnesota DNR          |
|            |            | Waterways Unit                |                        |
| Rick       | Certano    | Executive Director            | Spirit Mountain        |
| John       | Guenther   | Regional Administrator        | Minnesota DNR          |
| John       | Hollquist  | Forest Recreation & Land      | Division of Forestry   |
|            |            | Specialist                    |                        |
| Barbara    | West       | Superintendent, Voyagers NP   | NPS                    |
| Bill       | Morrissey  | Director, Parks & Recreation  | Minnesota DNR          |
|            |            | Division                      |                        |
| Robert     | Tomlinson, | Director, Forestry Division   | Minnesota DNR          |
| Dennis     | Thompson   |                               | Minnesota DNR          |
| John       | Vogel      | Land Commissioner             | St. Louis County       |
| David      | Schtzko    | Trails Specialist             | Minnesota DNR          |
| Tim        | Engrav     | Recreation Resource and       | Itasca County Planning |
|            |            | Planning Coordinator          | and Park System        |
| Dale       | Anderson   | Parks and Recreation Director | City of Grand Rapids   |
| Charles    | Driscoll   | Grand Rapids City Council     | CP Driscoll and        |
|            |            |                               | Associates             |
| Jon        | Nelson     | Environmental                 | Minnesota DNR-         |
|            |            | Review/legislative            | Forestry               |
|            |            | coordinator                   |                        |
| Dave       | Epperly    | Land Commissioner             | St. Louis County       |
| Barb       | Hayden     | Planning Director             | St. Louis County       |
| Steve      | Raukar     | Board of County               | St. Louis County       |
|            |            | Commissioners- Chair          |                        |
| Larry      | Larson     | Chairman-Board of             | Lake County            |
|            |            | Commissioners                 |                        |
| Tom        | Martinson  | Forester                      | Lake County-Dept. of   |
|            |            |                               | Forestry               |
| Dick       | Siegel     | Land Use Administrator        | Lake County-Planning   |
| Ann        | Cervenka   |                               | Cook County-Planning   |
|            |            |                               | and Zoning             |
| Robert     | Fenwick    | Board Chair                   | Lake County            |
|            |            | 1                             | Commissioners          |
| Ted        | Mershon    | Land Commissioner             | Lake County            |
| Reggie     | Lee        | County Commissioner           | Carleton County        |
| Roger      | Howard     | Land Commissioner             | Aitkin County          |
| Mel        | Tan        | Chairman-Board of             | Carlton County         |
| 3.4'1      | D          | Commissioners                 | G 1 G                  |
| Milo       | Rasmussen  | Land Commissioner             | Carleton County        |
| Garrett    | Ous        | Land Commissioner             | Itasca County          |
| Russell    | Klegstad   | Chairman- Board of            | Itasca County          |
| <b>D</b>   | G1 1       | Commissioners                 | T. G.                  |
| Roger      | Clark      | County Park System Manager    | Itasca County          |

| First Name        | Last Name       | Job Title                     | Company                |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Senator Norm      | Coleman         | senator                       | United State Senate    |
| Congressman       | Oberstar        | Congressman                   | United States Congress |
| James             |                 |                               |                        |
| United States     | Jeff Goffe      | Biologist                     | USFWS                  |
| Fish and Wildlife |                 |                               |                        |
| Service Region    |                 |                               |                        |
| 3                 |                 |                               |                        |
| Federal Highway   | Minnesota       | Cheryl Maritin-environmental  | D.O.T.                 |
| Administration    | Division- Attn: | program engineer              |                        |
|                   | Cheryl Martin   |                               |                        |
| 1854 Authority    | Attn: Darren    |                               | 1854 Commission        |
|                   | Vogt            |                               |                        |
|                   |                 |                               |                        |
| Bois Forte Band   | Tribal Council  |                               |                        |
| of Chippewa       |                 |                               |                        |
| Ferdinand         | Martineau       | Division Director, Resource   | Fond du Lac Tribe      |
|                   |                 | Management                    |                        |
| St. Croix         |                 | Superintendent                | NPS                    |
| National Scenic   |                 |                               |                        |
| River             |                 |                               |                        |
| Grand Portage     | Norman W.       | Chairman                      | Grand Portage Band     |
| Reservation       | Deschampe       |                               |                        |
| Tribal Council    |                 |                               |                        |
| Leech Lake        | John Ringle     | Director of Natural Resources | Leech Lake Band of     |
| Reservation       |                 |                               | Obijwe                 |

